



# ***Engaging San Antonio in Early Learning and School Readiness***

## **THE SCHOOL READINESS PROJECT IN SAN ANTONIO**

The Early ON School Readiness Project, sponsored by the City of San Antonio and operated by the Department of Community Initiatives began in October 2000 to support core issues of Early Childhood Education and family strengthening. The project originated with the community partnership under Better Jobs for San Antonio. The Better Jobs Initiative Task Force Early Childhood Committee formed a collaboration between school districts, early childhood education professionals, parents and community organizations such as the Smart Start Corporate Collaborative, San Antonio Urban Systemic Initiative, Alamo Workforce Development, and United Way.

## **SCHOOL READINESS VISION**

*Children and their families participate fully in quality early childhood education, family literacy and school readiness*

## **NEED FOR INTERVENTION**

- \* 33% of San Antonio children were not prepared for kindergarten (CDF)
- \* 33% of 3<sup>rd</sup> graders scored below minimum standards on the TAAS (TEA, 2000)
- \* 40% of 8<sup>th</sup> graders scored below minimum standards on the TAAS (TEA, 2000)
- \* 40% did not complete high school with their original classmates (IDRA estimate, 2000)
- \* 23% of adults did not have a high school diploma or GED (2000 Census)
- \* 27% of San Antonio adults were functionally illiterate (NIL, 1998)
- \* 13% of the San Antonio workforce lived in poverty (CPPP Estimate, 2000)

## **GOALS OF THE SCHOOL READINESS PROJECT**

- \* Children enter school ready to learn
  - o Support families as their child's first and most important teacher
- \* Elementary and secondary students succeed
  - o Build a high quality early childhood education system
  - o Graduates prepared for jobs or higher education
- \* Strong and self sufficient families and vibrant neighborhoods
  - o Promote widespread community support and awareness valuing quality early childhood education and family strengthening

## **MEASURES OF SUCCESS**

**Since the School Readiness Program Began in October 2000:**

- \* 877 Teachers Educated on School Readiness Guidelines
- \* 5,552 Child Participants
- \* 3,783 Children Showing Progress in Mastery
- \* 12,395 Parents Educated as their Child's First Teacher
- \* 236,965 School Readiness Brochures Distributed
- \* 1,235 Business Partnerships Established

Contract agencies providing services monitor and track the outcomes for the School Readiness Project. Outcomes will continue to be monitored as the project progresses.